

METHOD FOR IDENTIFICATION OF cDNAs ENCODING SIGNAL PEPTIDES**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

[0074] The present invention provides a method in which cDNAs that encode signal sequences for secreted or membrane-associated proteins are isolated using a fusion protein that directs secretion of a molecule that provides antibiotic resistance, *e.g.*, β -lactamase. The present method allows the isolation of signal peptide-associated proteins that may be difficult to isolate with other techniques. Moreover, the present method is amenable to throughput screening techniques and automation, and especially in validating the presence of the signal sequence via expression of the protein in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. This invention provides a powerful and approach to the large scale isolation of novel secreted proteins.

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